

Amendments to the Claims:

JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 JUN 2005

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CANCELED).
2. (CANCELED).
3. (CANCELED).
4. (CANCELED).
5. (CANCELED).
6. (CANCELED).
7. (CANCELED).
8. (NEW) A method for testing planar material for leakage comprising:

continuously conveying the planar material through a test chamber having a test gas chamber on one side of the planar material and a measuring chamber on the other side of the planar material, subjecting the planar material to a test gas with a predefinable test pressure on the test gas chamber side,

sealing at least one of the test gas chamber and the measuring chamber at at least one of a test chamber inlet duct and a test chamber outlet duct for the planar material by a gas curtain having a gas pressure higher than a gas pressure in at least one of the test gas chamber and the measuring chamber; and

detecting the presence of test gas on the measuring chamber side.

9. (New) A device for testing planar material for leakage comprising:

a test chamber having a test chamber inlet duct and a test chamber outlet duct for the planar material;

conveying device for continuously conveying the planar material

through the test chamber,

wherein said test chamber further includes a test gas chamber and a measuring chamber on opposite sides of introduced planar material, with at least one of the measuring chamber and the test gas chamber having an open-pore material which, on a side facing away from the planar material, has a planar surface extending from the test chamber inlet duct to the test chamber outlet duct;

a supply unit supplying the test gas; and

a test gas sensor system in communication with the measuring chamber.

10. (New) The device according to claim 9, wherein at least one of the two ducts being sealed by a gas curtain which is formed by a compressed gas fed into at least one of the test gas chamber and the measuring chamber.

11. (New) The device as claimed in claim 10, wherein at least one of the inlet duct and the outlet duct are bounded by in each case two compressed gas chambers positioned opposite one another and which generate the respective gas curtain.

12. (New) The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least one of the compressed gas chambers includes an open-pore material.

13. (New) The device as claimed in claim 9, further including a vacuum pump which is coupled on a suction side to the measuring chamber.

14. (New) The device as claimed in claim 9, further including a computer-supported image processing system for coarse leak detection on the inlet side of the test chamber.

15. (New) The device as claimed in claim 10, further including a

vacuum pump which is coupled on a suction side to the measuring chamber.

16. (New) The device as claimed in claim 11, further including a vacuum pump which is coupled on a suction side to the measuring chamber.

17. (New) The device as claimed in claim 12, further including a vacuum pump which is coupled on a suction side to the measuring chamber.

18. (New) The device as claimed in claim 10, further including a computer-supported image processing system for coarse leak detection on the inlet side of the test chamber.

19. (New) The device as claimed in claim 11, further including a computer-supported image processing system for coarse leak detection on the inlet side of the test chamber.

20. (New) The device as claimed in claim 12, further including a computer-supported image processing system for coarse leak detection on the inlet side of the test chamber.

21. (New) The device as claimed in claim 13, further including a computer-supported image processing system for coarse leak detection on the inlet side of the test chamber.